

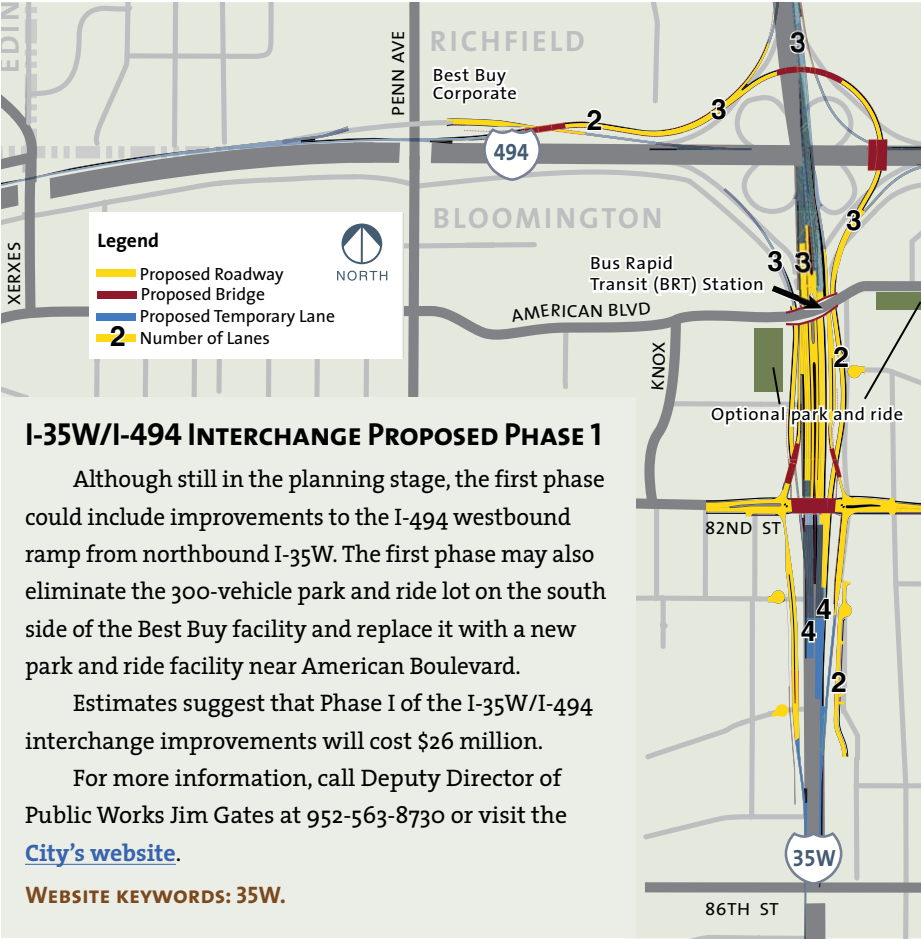


The I-35W/I-494 interchange is one of the most congested, unsafe interchanges in Minnesota. It was designed in the 1950s, constructed in the early 1960s and has undergone very few modifications since. Today, nearly 500,000 vehicles pass through the interchange daily. More than 30 percent of the day the interchange is severely congested, resulting in a number of vehicle crashes.

The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) has created a preliminary design for reconstructing the I-35W/I-494 interchange. Based on a plan by MnDOT, a major component of the reconstruction will include a “turbine” design that can be implemented in phases, allowing for the possibility of it being funded by federal, state, regional and local agencies.

RELIEF IS COMING

INTERCHANGE IMPROVEMENTS MOVING FORWARD



I-35W/I-494 INTERCHANGE PROPOSED PHASE 1

Although still in the planning stage, the first phase could include improvements to the I-494 westbound ramp from northbound I-35W. The first phase may also eliminate the 300-vehicle park and ride lot on the south side of the Best Buy facility and replace it with a new park and ride facility near American Boulevard.

Estimates suggest that Phase I of the I-35W/I-494 interchange improvements will cost \$26 million.

For more information, call Deputy Director of Public Works Jim Gates at 952-563-8730 or visit the [City’s website](#).

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: 35W.



OFF-ROAD RECREATIONAL VEHICLES

KNOW THE LAW



Due to the popularity of certain recreational vehicles such as scooters, mini-bikes and go-carts, the City has established new rules regarding the use of these vehicles.

Recreational vehicles can be used within the boundaries of Bloomington only on private property with the owner’s permission or on designated areas as approved by the City Council. A recreational vehicle is any vehicle powered by a motor of 25cc or less that can travel more than 20 m.p.h. This includes trail bikes, mini-bikes, go-carts, scooters and skateboards known as “powerboards.”

It is unlawful to use a recreational motor vehicle when:

- On publicly owned land, or on private property without the owner’s written permission.
- On any public street, sidewalk, walkway, highway or right-of-way.
- Within 150 yards of any public recreation area or gathering of people.
- Under the influence of alcohol or controlled substances.

The law also states that:

- Vehicles cannot be so loud as to disturb the peace.
- No one under 14 years old shall cross any street, highway or public right-of-way while riding such a vehicle.

For more information, call Officer Heidi Miller at 952-563-4975.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: RECREATIONAL VEHICLE LAWS.

SAFETY FIRST

BB AND PELLET GUNS

The Bloomington Police Department (BPD) has recently experienced an increase in calls related to the use of airsoft, BB and pellet guns.

These guns all fit into the definition of “dangerous weapons” set forth by the City Code. This class of weapon includes rifles, pistols and shotguns that use compressed gas or spring-driven pistons to propel plastic or steel pellets.

The City Code prohibits discharging or using a weapon in Bloomington. For more information, call the BPD at 952-563-8834.

WEBSITE KEYWORD: GUNS.



STUDYING TRAFFIC

OPEN HOUSE SEPTEMBER 27



Are you concerned about traffic on local streets? The City’s Traffic Management Program uses techniques to try to alleviate neighborhood traffic concerns. Two neighborhoods will be selected for the 2011 program.

Eligible neighborhoods may request traffic management devices that may decrease motor vehicle use on their streets, reduce traffic speed and improve safety.

An open house will be held **Monday, September 27, 5 - 7 p.m.**, in the Public Works Training Room, 1700 West 98th Street.

For more information, call Paul Jarvis at 952-563-4548. Application deadline is February 7, 2011.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: TRAFFIC OPEN HOUSE.

MAKING STRIDES

SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL

THE WAY TO A BETTER FUTURE

The City of Bloomington, with the help of a grant from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota, has developed an *Alternative Transportation Plan* that encourages walking, biking and other modes of transportation. *See page 1.*

New data from the U.S. Department of Transportation shows that both bicycling and walking trips have increased in the U.S. by 25 percent since 2001. Walking and cycling trails have played a vital role in connecting businesses and residential areas to open spaces and making commuting more enjoyable. At the same time, medical research has shown that walking and cycling have significant health benefits for older residents.

The Plan’s Strategic priorities include:

- Enhancing pedestrian access to schools through the Safe Routes to School program.
- Designing and building new and existing destination and linking trails.
- Improving natural surface trails along the Minnesota River Valley.
- Reconfiguring some streets to be more accommodating for bikeways.
- Removing barriers that prevent people from walking and biking.

The City is currently seeking funding to implement these initiatives. For more information, contact City Engineer Shelly Pederson at 952-563-4866 or e-mail spederson@ci.bloomington.mn.us.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION.



RIDING YOUR BIKE JUST GOT EASIER

NEW BIKE RACKS INSTALLED AROUND THE CITY

Looking for a secure spot to park your bike at school or around town? Check out the new bike racks at Jefferson High School, Poplar Bridge Elementary, Valley View Elementary, Civic Plaza, Bush Lake Beach and the Bloomington Family Aquatic Center.

The new racks provide secure, accessible bike parking when you’d prefer to pedal your way around. Funding for the bike racks was provided by the Bloomington, Edina and Richfield Statewide Health Improvement Program (SHIP).

SHIP is part of Minnesota’s health reform law that funds projects to achieve long-lasting environmental and policy changes supporting a healthy lifestyle.

For more information, contact SHIP Coordinator Ruth Tripp at 952-563-8742.

WEBSITE KEYWORD: SHIP.

